



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 106

January Session, 2009

House Bill No. 6394

House of Representatives, March 19, 2009

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "department" means the Military
4 Department, (2) "fund" means the Military Family Relief Fund
5 established in accordance with this section, (3) "eligible member of the
6 armed forces" and "eligible member" means a member of the armed
7 forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, including the
8 Connecticut National Guard, [who is on active duty and] who is
9 domiciled in this state, (4) "immediate family member" means an
10 eligible member's spouse, child or parent who is domiciled in this
11 state, or any other member of an eligible member's family who lives in
12 the same household as the eligible member, and (5) "essential personal
13 or household goods or services" includes, but is not limited to, repairs,
14 medical services that are not covered by insurance, transportation,
15 babysitting, clothing, school supplies or any other goods or services

16 that are essential to the well-being of an eligible member's immediate
17 family.

18 (b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,
19 nonlapsing account to be known as the "Military Family Relief Fund".
20 The account shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise
21 made available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any
22 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, and (3) gifts,
23 grants, donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section.
24 Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become
25 part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the account at
26 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for
27 the fiscal year next succeeding. The State Treasurer shall administer
28 the fund. All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the
29 Military Department for the purposes of this section. The Military
30 Department may deduct and retain from the moneys in the account an
31 amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering
32 the provisions of this section, except that said amount shall not exceed
33 two per cent of the moneys deposited in the account in any fiscal year.

34 (c) The Military Department shall use the Military Family Relief
35 Fund to make grants to immediate family members of eligible
36 members of the armed forces for essential personal or household
37 goods or services in this state if the payment for such goods or services
38 would be a hardship for such family member because of the military
39 service of the eligible member. The department shall not make any
40 grant that exceeds the balance available for grants in the fund.

41 (d) The department shall establish an application process that is
42 simple for immediate family members. The department shall act on
43 each application no later than seven days after the date on which the
44 completed application is submitted to the department.

45 (e) On or after six months from June 30, 2005, after evaluating the
46 performance of the program during the preceding six months,
47 including available resources and applications received, the
48 department may commence the process to adopt regulations, in

49 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that would facilitate the
50 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a
51 maximum amount of each grant, of each type of grant or of grants to
52 the immediate family members of any eligible member, and
53 establishing criteria for the approval of grant applications. The
54 department may implement the policies and procedures contained in
55 such proposed regulations while in the process of adopting such
56 proposed regulations, provided the department publishes notice of
57 intention to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal no
58 later than twenty days after implementing such policies and
59 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
60 subsection shall be valid until the earlier of the date on which such
61 regulations are effective or one year after the publication of such notice
62 of intention.

63 (f) On or before October 15, 2005, and on or before the fifteenth day
64 following the close of each calendar quarter thereafter, the department
65 shall submit a report to the select committee of the General Assembly
66 having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs,
67 in accordance with section 11-4a, that contains the following
68 information for the preceding calendar quarter: (1) The number of
69 applications received, (2) the number of eligible members whose
70 immediate family members received grants under this section, (3) the
71 amount in grants made to the immediate family of each such eligible
72 member, (4) the uses for such grants, and (5) any recommendations
73 regarding the Military Family Relief Fund, including any proposed
74 legislation to facilitate the purposes of this section. Such reports shall
75 not identify the name of any eligible member or of any immediate
76 family member. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of
77 section 1-210, all information obtained by the Military Department that
78 contains the name or address of, or other information that could be
79 used to identify, an eligible member or an immediate family member
80 shall be confidential.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-100a
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VA *Joint Favorable C/R*

PS

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Military Dept.	GF - Cost	Less than 50,000	Less than 50,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands eligibility for assistance from the Military Family Relief Fund to members and immediate families of members of the armed forces and Connecticut National Guard domiciled in the state that are not on active duty. It is anticipated that this will result in a cost to the Military Department's Family Relief Fund not to exceed \$50,000 in FY 10 and FY 11.

The Military Family Relief Fund is a non-lapsing General Fund account which began the current fiscal year with a balance of \$597,195. Expenditures in the amounts of \$50,813 and \$11,950 occurred in FY 07 and FY 08, respectively, and \$40,000 is projected to be spent in FY 09. Under current law, an estimated 14,000 members and their immediate families are eligible for assistance from the Fund. The bill would expand eligibility to an estimated additional 12,000 members and their families. To the extent that the Fund is utilized by these additional members and their families, there will be an increased cost to the Military Family Relief Fund which is not anticipated to exceed \$50,000 in FY 10 and FY 11.

The Out Years

The annualized fiscal impact identified above would continue into

the future subject to inflation.

Source(s): Department of Defense; Connecticut National Guard; Annual Report of the State Comptroller 2007 & 2008

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6394*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes immediate relatives of Connecticut-domiciled armed forces members, including Connecticut National Guard members, who are not on active duty eligible to receive benefits from the Military Family Relief Fund. Under current law, only relatives of service members on active duty qualify.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Military Family Relief Fund***

This fund is a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account administered by the state treasurer. The Military Department uses it to make grants to pay for essential personal or household goods or services in Connecticut, if paying for them is a hardship because of a member's service. "Immediate relatives" are an eligible member's spouse, child, or parent domiciled in Connecticut or other relatives living in his or her household. "Essential personal household goods or services" include repairs, uninsured medical services, transportation, babysitting, clothing, school supplies, and other goods or services essential to the relatives' well being.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 0 (02/26/2009)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)